

Gabriel F. Wisner, New York.

Introduction.

In the following pages I purpose giving a short but succinct account of a class of diseases which for many ages has been the scourge of Humanity and despair of Physicians, it seems the almost inseparable companion of Civilization. I allude to the simple forms of Venereal disease, Gonorrhoea and its kindred diseases, Chordee, Phymosis Paraphymosis Priapismus &c History of Gonorrhoea. The origin of this disease is lost in the mists of the most remote antiquity. The earliest authentic records are to be found in the inspired writings of the famous arch-leads of the chosen people of God in their wandering from Egypt to the promised land.

The writings of many of the Greek fathers of medicine contain accounts of the Venereal diseases particularly of Syphilis. But it is not my intention to describe Syphilis but to confine this theses to the simple venereal disease as above enumerated only referring to Syphilis when such reference is necessary for the elucidation of the subject in hand. It is a vulgar but erroneous idea that Gonorrhoea is an indigenous disease of the New World and was brought from thence by Christopher Columbus along with Potatoes, Tobacco, &c. But we have the clearest evidence that the disease was well known in Europe prior to 1493 and also that it was quite unknown to the Aztecs and other nations who then ruled with undisputed sway over regions where the energetic Anglo Saxon has now established our great Republic. Indeed glancing

into the sculptured records of Egypt- looking to the period when the warlike Desert Kings had been expelled from the valley of the mysterious Nile, and a race arose mighty in architecture, mathematics and everything but war, - looking to a period when the Pharaoh ruled from the Ganges to the Hellespont. we find that that early time of civilization was accompanied by its scourge - the venereal disease. Evidence of this has been adduced from certain sculptures found recently near the great Temple of Luxor.

Towards the end of the 15th Century a French army commanded by a gay and gallant monarch entered Italy for the purpose of conquering the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, to which Charles VIII of France laid claim. The City of Naples was stormed and pillaged by the French troops who also carried back with them to "la belle France

the Venereal disease termed by them "Lourenis
or Mal de Naples. The Neapolitans on the other
hand called it Mal de France, thus mutually
yielding the unenviable notoriety of the
introduction of the disease. And when
the Spaniards besieged Lisbon and the
Portuguese Castle standard quailed before
the Lion and the Castle of Castile a number
of Portuguese Prostitutes who were convinced
of the corruption of their bodies entered
the Spanish lines and in a few days disabled
4000 Spaniards a result equivalent to the loss
of a great battle. In all armies this disease
seems to be the comrade of the Soldier, for
the celebrated military surgeon the Baron
de Larrey reported ^{to the Emperor Napoleon I} every seventh Soldier in
the Grand Army was affected singularly indi-
cator of the tastes and disposition of the French
Soldier." —

Symptoms of Gonorrhoea. —

Gonorrhoea, erroneously from the Greek words γονν, and ρεω, I flow, because the older writers believed it to be a flux of semen, the ancients considering the mucus of the urethral flowings as adulterated sperm, had called Gonorrhoea the disease known to day under the name of *Blennorrhagia* meaning simply a flowing mucosities, and could designate all the morbid secretions of the mucous membranes in general, being the seat of inflammation, but it has been introduced by Swediaur to name the inflammation of the urethra and prepuce in man and urethra and Vagina in the Female with mucous-purulent flowing, when this flowing exists without inflammation, the disease assumes the name of *Blennorrhoea*, so that these two expressions (*Blennorrhagia* and *Blennorrhoea*) take the place of *Gonorrhoea*, a word used by the ancients, because they believed that flowing to be an evacuation of sperm.

Anything that irritates the mucous
genito-urinary organs, may produce
Blenorrhagia, but it is most generally
of Syphilitic origin. It appears from
the second to the eighth day rarely
sooner oftener much later. It commen-
ces with an itching and redness of the
meatus urinarius attended with
burning when voiding urine. In
two or three days more, the orifice of the
urethra becomes red swollen and
moist. Frequently a drawing is experienced
at this period in the spermatic cord,
the testes, & the inguinal region. There
is generally a burning during, and after
micturition, which increases from
day to day. The redness and swelling
also increases, and a discharge which
is sometimes profuse and generally
clear and viscid takes place from the

urethra, and causes the sides of the orifice to adhere. On the eighth day, and sometimes sooner, the discharge increases, becomes thicker and of yellowish white color. The inflammation gradually increases in violence and extent. The pain during urination, reaches the highest degree of violence, and is no longer confined to the forepart of the penis, but extends over the whole organ. As the inflammation advances, or when it has been intense from the commencement, the discharge becomes greenish, acrid, and sometimes mixed with blood. The glands and prepuce frequently become red and tumefied, involuntary and painful erections often occur particularly during the night, and there is some times considerable restlessness, headache, and other symptoms of

fever. It also becomes curved or bent to one side which is termed Chordee, When the acute stage begins to subside, its decline is marked by a diminution of the pain, and scalding sensation in making water, and in five or six weeks the symptoms gradually disappear. It frequently occurs that the acute form disappears, leaving a chronic discharge of thin white pus of a purulent character, which is termed Gleet. It is sometimes accompanied with Phymosis or Paraphymosis, the first is a contraction of the prepuce over the glans Penis, and the last a contraction of it behind the glans. Women don't suffer as much pain as the men in the same disease. Sometimes, the inflammation affects the mucous membrane of

the vagina, and even of the uterus itself. The discharge takes place from the secreting surface of the labia, nymphae, and clitoris, as well as from the lining of the urinary opening and vagina, in severe cases. In a healthy subject with good constitution, and the disease of a mild character a cure is soon effected, and very easily, provided the patient resorts to the proper medicines. before the second stage sets in. In the treatment of this disease it is necessary for a speedy cure, to pay strict attention to the rules laid down in diet. It should be of farinaceous kind avoiding all meat, grease, and all substances that are not easy to digest, &c. should also avoid all spices or anything of a stimulent character. The patient should keep as still as possible. —

The medicines used in the treatment of these diseases are as follows. Aconite, Cannabis, Cantharides Mercurious I. and Mercurious II. Agnus castus, Argentum nitricum, Balsam Copai, Capsaicum, Coccus, Ferrum & various &c. Aconite and Cannabis, may be given when the following symptoms are present, viz redness and fulness of the orifice of the urethra; disagreeable itching in the tube; frequent desire to make water; and considerable pain in voiding it, also a disposition to urinate frequently, together with lessening of the stream, although the strongest efforts to force it through the urethra, still cannabis is said to be the best remedy that can be used. —

Cantharides, is good after Aconite when the intensity of the pain and febrile irritation which may have been present, have yielded, but the difficulty in voiding urine proves obstinate, and other distressing symptoms,

such as intense desire to urinate, and chordee remain.

Mercurious Solubilis: where there is burning pain in the urethra when touching the penis, inflammation of the orifice of the urethra, swelling of the forepart of the urethra with suppuration between the glans and prepuce, redness and heat of the urethra, accompanied by a raging pain in the forehead, a feeble stream of the urine, itching and stinging in the forepart of the urethra, throbbing in the same, and a greenish, painless discharge, especially at night, or a slight secretion of moisture from the forepart of the urethra.

Mercurious Viv. is indicated in gonorrhoea, when the prepuce is extended and swollen; and also in the commencement of the second stage, when there remains a mucopurulent discharge of a white, greenish, yellow

color, and in passing the last drops of water there is felt some degree of pain; and also when there is a swelling of the lymphatic glands. *Agnus castus* is particularly adapted to a yellow purulent discharge from the urethra, after the inflammatory symptoms have subsided for the most part, and in cases of gleet, accompanied by want of erections and deficient sexual desire.

Argentum nitricum is useful when the emission of urine is accompanied by burning, and if a sensation is experienced as though the urethra were closed, and the last portion of the urine remained behind in the urethra; it is also indicated by dragging pains in the urethra, cutting cutting along the urethra as far as the anus, feeling of soreness in the urethra after micturition, haemorrhage from the urethra, painful tense erections, &c

Balsamum capivi. is indicated by smarting pain, burning and itching in the urethra before and after micturition, swelling and inflammation of the orifice of the urethra, painful soreness of the urethra, and purulent discharge from the same.

Capsicum. Burning at the orifice of the urethra before, during and after micturition, painfulness of the urethra to contact, cutting pain in the urethra between the acts of micturition, pricking as with pins in the forepart of the urethra, thick, purulent, yellow discharge.

Cocculus. Tensive, aching pain in the orifice of the urethra, between the acts of micturition, itching stinging in the forepart of the urethra.

Serenum. Discharge of mucus from the urethra after a cold.

Mercurious corrosives. —

Inflammation of the meatus
urinaris, itching in the front
part of the urethra, smarting
pain during micturition, and
stiches to and fro in the urethra
with a discharge which is at
first thin, afterwards thickly.

Thuja. Burning in the urethra;
internally and externally, pains
in the urethra at the commencement
of gonorrhoea, burning, piercing stiches
near the orifice of the urethra between
the acts of micturition, sensation
in the urethra as if a drop would
run out of it, drawing, cutting
pain in the urethra especially
when walking, stiches in the
urethra from behind forwards
between the acts of micturition
jivking in the urethra and a wetery discharge.

Nux Vomica: Pressive pain at the orifice of the urethra between the acts of micturition, accompanied by a feeling of shuddering; sharp pressure, as with a cutting or sticking instrument in the forepart of the urethra, at the bladder, neck of the bladder, perinaeum, rectum, anus, as if cutting flatulence were endeavoring to issue from all these parts; accompanied by contractive pains in the forepart of the urethra between the acts of micturition, and discharge of mucus from the urethra depending upon haemorrhoidal affections.

Pulsatilla: contraction of the urethra and thin stream of the urine discharge of blood from the urethra

swelling of the testes and inflammation of the eyes caused by suppression of gonorrhoea.

Sulphur: Burning in the forepart of the urethra, internally and externally, pains in the urethra at the commencement of gonorrhoea, redness and inflammation of the meatus urinarius, thin stream of the urine, itching in the middle of the urethra, constant desire to urinate, tearing and stinging in the urethra between the acts of micturition, cutting in the urethra before and during stool, and stiches in the forepart of the urethra, — The medicines used in Trippism are Agavicus, Petroselinum, Cantharides,